CLAIMS:

A (meth)acrylate compound having the general formula 1. (1):

$$R^1$$
 O
 R^2
 R^2
 O

(1)

5

wherein R^1 is hydrogen or methyl, and R^2 is a straight, branched or cyclic monovalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or two R^2 may bond together to form a ring with the carbon atom to which they are bonded.

10

A polymer comprising recurring units of the general formula (1a) and having a weight average molecular weight of 2,000 to 100,000,

$$\begin{array}{c}
R^1 \\
O \\
O \\
O
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
R^2 \\
R^2
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
(1a)
\end{array}$$

wherein R^1 is hydrogen or methyl, and R^2 is a straight, 15 branched or cyclic monovalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or two R^2 may bond together to form a ring with the carbon atom to which they are bonded.